

REMARKS

In filing the reissue application, it is stated that the original patent will be surrendered when the reissue application is allowed.

It is also stated that ~~any~~^{no} prior or concurrent proceedings are involved in the present reissue application.

mlh
3/9/04

A consent for filing the reissue application by the assignee is attached herewith.

In prosecuting the application of the patent, the cited references had been considered excessively broadly, so that the claims were limited too narrow relative to the references actually disclosed. Since the excessive limitation was noticed, the present reissue application has been filed.

In claim 3, the seat comprises a soft pad 1 having a cavity 5 extending upwardly from a bottom surface thereof, a pressure sensitive sheet sensor 2 for sensing a person sitting on the pad, and a soft material or slab 6 disposed in the cavity such that the soft material is prevented from coming off from the cavity, said sheet sensor being disposed on an upper portion of the soft material.

In claim 8, the soft pad has a slit 7 for inserting the sheet sensor 2, and the slit 7 extends from a side surface of the pad to a center of the pad.

In claim 9, the soft pad has a cavity 5 extending upwardly from a bottom surface of the pad for inserting the sheet sensor 2, and a soft material 6 inserted into the cavity such that the soft material is prevented from coming off from the cavity and the seat sensor is disposed on the soft material.

In Aoki et al. (U.S. 5,446,391), a sensor electrode 11 is disposed on an urethane member 15, wherein no cavity is formed from a bottom surface of a main cushion 5.

In Aoki et al. (U.S. 4,865,379), a cushion member 2 has a recessed portion 23 extending from a bottom surface, and a block member 3 is disposed therein. However, the block member 3 is not disposed such that the soft material is prevented from coming off from the cavity.

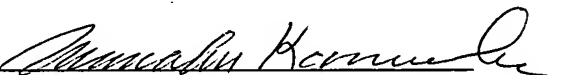
In Fontain (U.S. 5,120,980), a separator 1 is disposed between wire mesh contact sheets 2 and 3. No special cavity or slit for disposing the contact sheets 2, 3 with the separator 1 is disclosed.

In EP 0785101, a cavity is formed on a top surface, not from the bottom surface.

The claims pending in the reissue application are not disclosed or suggested in the references prosecuted in the application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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